

Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item

**ISTEP+ Applied Skills Sample for Classroom Use**

**ELA – Grade 3**

*(Constructed-Response, Extended-Response)*

# Inside the United States Mint

## How was the United States Mint born?

**1** It is the 18th century, and the colonies are breaking free from England. A new country! But what about money? How can they pay for their war against England?

**2** In 1775, **John Hancock**<sup>1</sup> suggests that Congress issue bills of credit. People could exchange these paper notes for silver Spanish-milled dollars after the war.

<sup>1</sup>John Hancock: John Hancock was a politician and merchant. He was known for his grand signing of the Declaration of Independence.

**3** The colonists already use many types of currencies. If the colonies win, should they use British **pounds**<sup>2</sup> after the war? Or use Spanish-milled dollars? Or invent a whole new currency?

<sup>2</sup>Pounds: The name for money used in Great Britain. Instead of dollars, British citizens use pounds.

**4** **Jefferson**<sup>3</sup> says that our money should be divided into 100 parts. In 1785, Congress invents a new dollar currency and decides from which metals the coins will be made. Now they just need someone to make them!

<sup>3</sup>Thomas Jefferson: Thomas Jefferson is considered a founding father of the United States. He was the third president of the United States.

**5** In 1792, Congress passes the Coinage Act, creating the Bureau of the Mint to make gold, silver, and copper coins. The United States Mint is born!

**6** President George Washington appoints David Rittenhouse, a scientist, as the first Director of the Mint. The Mint produces its first circulating coins: copper cents and half cents.

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**What does the United States Mint do?**

**7** The United States Mint makes coins. Its main task is to make sure the people of the nation have enough coins to carry on daily business. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing makes paper money and the United States Mint makes all our nation's coins. In addition to coins for commerce (buying and selling), the United States Mint also makes other coins and medals for collectors.

**8** There are six places around the country that make up this federal agency. Each one is called a "facility."

**What is a facility?**

**9** A facility is a place or building set up for certain reasons. As a house has a kitchen for cooking and a bedroom for sleeping but the rooms are still part of one house, so the United States Mint has six facilities with different purposes.

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**10** From the headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Director of the Mint oversees the facilities in Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco, and West Point, as well as the U.S. Bullion Depository at Fort Knox, Kentucky (shown on the map).

**What coins are made at the facilities?**

**11** The Mint makes pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollars. They make special coins too. You might know about the state quarter program. The 50 State Quarters® Program ended in 2008—its tenth year—with its final five coins.

**12** Here's how the program worked: In 1999, the United States Mint began making a new quarter about every ten weeks to honor one of the 50 states—that is, five new quarters every year—until the program ended. The quarters were made in the same order as the states' "birthdays," as listed in the chart.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Delaware	Massachusetts	New York	Tennessee	Illinois
Pennsylvania	Maryland	North Carolina	Ohio	Alabama
New Jersey	South Carolina	Rhode Island	Louisiana	Maine
Georgia	New Hampshire	Vermont	Indiana	Missouri
Connecticut	Virginia	Kentucky	Mississippi	Arkansas

  

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Michigan	California	Nevada	Montana	Oklahoma
Florida	Minnesota	Nebraska	Washington	New Mexico
Texas	Oregon	Colorado	Idaho	Arizona
Iowa	Kansas	North Dakota	Wyoming	Alaska
Wisconsin	West Virginia	South Dakota	Utah	Hawaii

### **The America the Beautiful® Program**

**13** In 2010, the United States Mint began to issue quarters for the America the Beautiful program. By the time the program ends in 2021, there will be a total of 56 quarter-dollar coins released. Each design (on the flip side of the coin) will focus on a different national site in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia.

**14** In 2017, Indiana will have its state coin released. The coin will celebrate the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Vincennes, Indiana.

Source: <http://www.usmint.gov/kids/>

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Passage: Inside the United States Mint			
<b>Content Standard:</b> <b>3.RN.3.1:</b> Apply knowledge of text features to locate information and gain meaning from a text (e.g., <i>maps, illustrations, charts, font/format</i> ).			
Item Type: Constructed-Response	Pts: 2	DOK: 3	Grade: 3

How do the picture and the table help the reader understand the information in the article? Support your answer with details from the article.

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Passage: Inside the United States Mint			
<b>Content Standard: 3.W.3.1</b> Write persuasive compositions in a variety of forms that – <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● State the opinion in an introductory statement or section.</li><li>● Support the opinion with reasons in an organized way</li><li>● Connect opinion and reasons using words and phrases.</li><li>● Provide a concluding statement or section.</li></ul>			
Item Type: Extended-Response	Pts: 8	DOK: 4	Grade: 3

You have read information about the United States Mint. Write a persuasive essay to show your teacher how much you would learn on a field trip to one of the facilities. Use details from the article to help explain what you would learn on your visit.